

Alaska Invasive Species Working Group audio Conference

Tuesday August 29, 1pm to 2 pm

Hosted via NRCS bridge number

Participants:

Helen Dennison-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Palmer
Larry DeVilbiss-AK Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, Palmer
Gino Graziano- Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD), Wasilla
Michele Hebert- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks
Jeff Heys- National Park Service, Anchorage
Caitlin Higgins-Alaska Conservation Alliance, Anchorage
Deena Jallen- UAF Cooperative Extension Service, Fairbanks
Larry Johnson-AK Dept. of Transportation, Fairbanks
Anne Jourdan- Alaska Intertribal Council (AITC), Anchorage
Denny Lassuy- US Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage
Rose Lombardi- AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Wasilla
Sharry Miller- Prince William Soundkeeper, Valdez
Shelly Morgan- The Nature Conservancy, Anchorage
Rachael Petro-AK Dept. of Natural Resources, Anchorage
Bob Piorkowski- AK Dept. of Fish and Game, Juneau
Linda Shaw- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Juneau
Michael Shepherd-US Forestry Service, Anchorage
Jeanne Standley-US Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage

Agenda: Items to discuss

- Discussion of the AISWG website
- CNIPM directory update
- Strategic Plan
- Invasive Species Assessment
- MOU Progress
- October Anchorage meeting
- Next teleconference for the AISWG
- Additional Resources

Discussion of the AISWG website

The AISWG website is still at its temporary address. Once up and running, it can keep the name of alaskainvasives.com on whatever server it goes to, if it ends up getting hosted by the state or another agency. Those wishing to review the site and make corrections and suggestions can view the work-in-progress draft at www.uaf.edu/ces/michele/tests Please email the webmaster with feedback.

CNIPM directory update

Group discussion about adding the CNIPM directory to the website; Michael Shephard will bring up the issue with the CNIPM board at the next meeting. The directory needs to be updated, and CNIPM is considering adding more categories of interests and a flagging system to make the directory more comprehensive and user friendly. Michele Hebert will send her more updated version to Jeff Heys.

Strategic Plan/Invasive Species Assessment

One of the outcomes discussed at the AISWG meeting in April was to have the Strategic Plan process underway. During the July monthly meeting of the AISWG, the orderly development of a Strategic plan was discussed. It was decided by meeting attendees that efforts would be better focused on producing a

needs assessment. Bob Piorkowski from ADF&G is leading this process. He will be holding a teleconference for interested parties at 2pm, Wednesday September 6. More details, including example documents from Idaho, will be provided via the listserv. Michael Shepherd recommended looking at the Assessment of Invasive Species in Alaska and its National Forests, although forest centric, it is a good example.

A first draft of a needs assessment may be ready for distribution by early October, so that it can be discussed at the AISWG meeting and further steps charted.

The schedule for the needs assessment includes:

First meeting, 9/6 2pm: Coordinate with volunteers to divide tasks. Bob Piorkowski will supply example documents, rough draft.

Late September, have a draft ready for polishing.

Early October, (2-3 weeks before October 24): supply draft to the AISWG for review and comments.

Volunteers are needed to help out. Linda Shaw will help. Michele Hebert will assist, but does not want to be the sole representative from CNIPM, Larry DeVilbiss will try to have someone from the Division of Agriculture participate, Michael Shephard, and Jeff Heys would be good to tap for ideas on forestry issues. Deena Jallen will assist with administrative support.

MOU Progress

Rachael Petro provided an update on the progress of the MOU. The Natural Resources Commissioners sub-Cabinet has been unable to meet. She talked to the Governors office, and they have agreed to individually move the MOU through the State of Alaska departments, and Commissioners. Changes from the commissioners are expected by Friday, September 8, and the MOU with their changes will be sent to the listserv. The process of collecting signatures will begin the following week. Michael Shepherd will coordinate getting signatures from federal agencies, Rachael Petro will get signatures from state agencies, and Michele Hebert will coordinate getting signatures from Non-Governmental Organizations.

Rose Lombardi suggested that a press release should be made. Rachael Petro said the Governors office would not release one, and that the AISWG should generate it. Denny Lassuy will help with press releases, and may work with Bruce Wood. Michele Hebert will work with the Cooperative Extensions media contacts in TV, radio, and press.

Denny Lassuy would expect that the MOU would be open to more signatures as time goes on. Whether the MOU will be open-ended, or have to be renewed each year is not known.

For further PR venues, Anne Jourdan suggested upcoming conferences this fall, and recommended that AISWG members have advertising at those venues (Alaska Forum on the Environment, Alaska Intertribal Annual Conference, etc). Additionally, the Alaska Forum on the Environment may include a session on invasive species (Jamie Snyder, Denny Lassuy and Bob Piorkowski have been requested to help with organization). USFWS will be displaying information and outreach material on rats, and Denny Lassuy will try to add an update on the AISWG to the agenda.

Bob Piorkowski would like to thank Rachael and the Governors office for making a command decision to move ahead with the MOU signatory process.

October Anchorage meeting

On October 24, the AISWG will meet in Anchorage, and the Fish and Game Hunter Safety and Education training facility near Potter marsh. Space is limited to 40-50 people. Food and water will need to be supplied by participants or by an agreement to be developed the morning of the meeting. That evening, Randy Wesbrooks will give an invasives related talk at the Loussac Library at 7:00 or 7:30.

The next teleconference (September 25) will be used to start planning the October meeting goals and agenda.

Project Briefings

Denny Lassuy will be traveling to Adak to conduct a trial rat eradication project, and will also begin producing a newsletter for the USFWS. This newsletter will be available on the website, produced every other month, provide project overviews, and highlight 2 invasive species in Alaska.

Next Meeting for the AISWG:

Monday September 25, 1 pm. NRCS Bridge number 907-271-1405.

Additional Resources:

Assessment of Invasive Species in Alaska and its National Forests

August 30, 2005, Compiled by Barbara Schrader and Paul Hennon

http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/pdfs/literature/R10_Inv_Spp_Assessmt.pdf

AISWG temporary address for review

www.uaf.edu/ces/michele/tests